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Attorney's Docket No. 00216-660001 / Case 8130

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 3-6, it is seen that each elongated blade 28 is supported on a respective elongated bent support 400 having an elongated lower base portion 402, an elongated bent portion 404 and an elongated platform portion 406 on which the blade 28 is supported. The blade span is defined as the distance from the blade edge to the skin contacting element immediately in front of that edge as measured along a tangent line extending between the element and the blade edge. The cutting edges ~~[[406]]~~ 408 of each blade are separated from cutting edges 408 of adjacent blades by the inter-blade span distance  $S2 = S3 = S4 = S5$ ; the inter-blade span is between 0.95 mm and 1.15 mm, preferably between 1.0 mm and 1.1 mm and most preferably about 1.05 mm. The blade exposure is defined to be the perpendicular distance or height of the blade edge measured with respect to a plane tangential to the skin contacting surfaces of the blade unit elements next in front of and next behind the edge. Because the cutting edges all rest against clips 32 when at rest, they are in a common plane, such that the exposures of the three intermediate blades are zero. The front blade 28 has a negative exposure of -0.04 mm, and the last blade 28 has a positive exposure. The span S1 from the front rail 409 to the cutting edge of the front blade 28 is 0.65 mm, and the distance SC from the cutting edge of the last blade 28 to the tangent point on lubricating strip 26 of cap 24 is 3.16 mm. The distance ST from the first cutting edge 408 to the last cutting edge 408 is four times the inter-blade span and thus is between 3.8 mm and 4.6 mm, preferably between 4.0 mm and 4.4 mm and most preferably about 4.2 mm, i.e., between 4.1 mm and 4.3 mm.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 4-6, blade 28 is connected to platform portion 406 by thirteen spot welds 410 applied by a laser that melts the metal of blade 28 at the weld area WA to create

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molten metal, which forms the weld 410 to platform portion 406 upon cooling. The weld area WA is an area of attachment at which the blade is secured to the platform portion. Referring to Fig. 7, the ~~[[The]]~~ weld area WA is located within a flat portion FP of platform portion 406. The blade length LB from cutting edge 408 to blade end 450 is less than 1mm, preferably less than 0.9 mm, and most preferably about 0.85 mm. Blade 28 has a uniform thickness portion 412 that is supported on platform portion 406 and a tapered portion 412 ~~414~~ that extends beyond the front end 452 of platform portion 406.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 8 is a schematic representation of a blade 470 and angled support 472 used in the Mach III shaving razor. Blade 470 has a blade length LB of 1.23 mm. Support 472 is made of metal 0.011" thick, has a platform portion 474 with a length LP of 0.83 mm (tolerance +0.10, [[/]]-0.05] and a radius of curvature R of 0.20 mm ~~[[9]]~~ (max). Platform portion 474 is crowned, with curvature beyond the flat portion FP at which weld 476 is located. Flat portion FP has a minimum dimension of 0.3 mm. In the shaving cartridge, the inter-blade span is 1.50 mm, such that the distance from the cutting edge of the front blade to the cutting edge of the last blade is 3.00 mm. If the same inter-blade span were maintained in a shaving razor cartridge with five blades, the distance from the cutting edge of the front blade to the cutting edge of the last blade would be 6.00 mm. If the same blades 470 and angled supports 472 were used with smaller inter-blade spans, the reduced spaces between adjacent blades 470 and angled supports 472 would increase possibility of reduced rinsability, with increased likelihood of retention of shaving debris in the blade area and reduced shaving performance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 7, because angled support 400 is cut and formed from thinner metal, it facilitates providing a reduced radius of curvature R, thereby permitting a greater percentage of

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the platform portion to be flat. The use of thinner material for the support also facilitates the ability to provide a larger percentage of the platform area flat after forming. A minimum size flat area is needed to accurately and reliably support blade 28, which has a reduced length for its uniform thickness portion 412, owing to the shorter length. The shorter uniform thickness portion 412 can be employed, while still maintaining necessary accurate blade support, because the extent of curved areas of platform portion 406 outside of the flat area [[FA]] FP has been reduced. Such accurate blade support is necessary to provide desired blade geometry for desired shaving performance.

Please delete the previous abstract at page 14 and add the following new abstract:

A cutting member for a shaving razor includes (a) an elongated metal blade having a cutting edge, a blade end, a tapered portion near the blade end and a uniform thickness portion extending from the blade end to the tapered portion, and (b) a elongated bent metal support that has a platform portion, a bent portion and a base portion extending downward from the bent portion. The platform portion extends forward from the bent portion to a front end. The platform portion includes an attachment area that is spaced from the front end and the bent portion, and a flat portion that includes and extends beyond the attachment area. The uniform thickness portion of the blade is supported on the platform portion and secured thereto at the attachment area, the tapered portion extending forward beyond the front end of the platform portion.